



**LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Henry J. Mroz Administration Office**  
**155 Merrimack Street**  
**Lowell, Massachusetts 01852**

**Sokhary Chau**  
**Mayor and Chairperson**

**Jackie Doherty**  
**Vice-Chairperson**

**Eileen Delrossi**  
**Dominik Lay**  
**Connie A. Martin**  
**Stacey Thompson**

**Curriculum & Instruction**  
**Subcommittee Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**  
**City Hall – Mayor’s Reception Ro**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Tel: (978) 674-4324**  
**Fax: (978) 937-7609**

Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Ms. Martin and Ms. Thompson Ms. Chhoun was absent.
School Committee Members Present:	Ms. Doherty and Mr. Lay
School Department Personnel Present:	Ms. Desmond, Chief Academic Officer

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Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The following agenda item was discussed:

- 1. Update on the LHS Fine Arts/Health Program**
- 2. Report on elementary math and ELA Interventions**

Chairperson Martin asked Ms. Desmond to address the Subcommittee. Ms. Desmond introduced Ms. Newell, Coordinator of Language & Literacy K12, who had a PowerPoint presentation that she shared with the Committee. Ms. Newell stated that the literacy proposed is based on the Department of Education. She spoke about the components of literacy instruction and stated that foundational skills include the core literacy block and that includes systematic instruction with active practice in foundational skills. She stated that the foundational skills used for all are print concepts, phonological awareness, letter names, phonics and decoding, advanced phonics, and fluency. She stated that engaging the student with complex text is core literacy which includes reading or listening to authentic and meaningful texts every day in grades Pre-K-3. The report also included all the literacy curricular resources and all literacy interventions being used for grades K-4.

Ms. Thompson asked what equity lens is attached to this.

Ms. Newell stated that all students get to pick text and the text in classrooms reflect the district's students. She stated that there has also been a focus on this when purchasing texts for the school libraries. She stated that as a result of the pandemic, the district assesses students three (3) times a year and progress reports are given two (2) times a year.

Ms. Thompson asked if this is part of the process with parents at School Site Council (SSC) meetings.

Ms. Newell stated that it depends on how the schools runs their SSC meetings.

Ms. Doherty thanked Ms. Newell and stated that it's so important what the district uses.

Mr. Lay asked about the software we are using and if students are just watching videos and if the teacher is just the facilitator.

Ms. Newell stated that teachers are doing all the work.

Mr. Gwaizda, Coordinator of Mathematics K-12, stated that there are three (3) components that the district is using as core math instruction. He stated that the district focuses conceptual understand, procedural skills and capacity. He stated that the district also has math assessments three (3) times a year and that students are identified in MCAS data. The report also included all the mathematic curricular resources and interventions being used.

Ms. Martin asked when Eureka came in.

Mr. Gwaizda stated that it was in school year 2015-2016 and the district has been using it since.

Ms. Thompson asked if we have data to know where students stand.

Mr. Gwaizda stated yes. He stated that IReady has data and identifies content level for students. He stated that there is also a Eureka post assessment. He stated that he's not sure if there is data to show Eureka's growth. He stated that they gave elementary teachers the option to switch and most want to stay with Eureka.

Mr. Slattery, Department Chair of Health & Wellness, shared the current curriculum in health/wellness classes. He stated that the current Lowell High Health Curriculum has been a collaborative multi-year process informed by the Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks.

Ms. Daviso, Department Chair of Fine Arts, stated that teachers in performing arts collaborated with Health I and II teachers during a series of before school meetings and on two (2) professional development days to align the curriculum taught in dance, show choir, and marching band to the most-up-to-date health curriculum. She stated that the next steps are to report post-test data in Spring 2022, provide additional professional development options throughout the spring, continue collaboration between performing arts and health teachers, and to continue department chair co-observations.

Ms. Martin asked if Health I and II are preparing our students in their fine arts programs.

Ms. Daviso stated yes and its different courses. She stated that the post test is identical to pre-test and that the Committee will be able to see the growth.

Ms. Doherty asked if we are working with the same standards and how are we accounting for the loss of time.

Ms. Daviso stated that Health is a ½ year class and dance is a full year and that it is stretched out over a full year.

Ms. Doherty stated that she would like to have another Curriculum Subcommittee in the future to discuss middle school health.

**Ms. Thompson made a motion to receive a data presentation on where students stand in the ELA & Math programs; seconded by Chairperson Martin. 2 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Chhoun) APPROVED**

**Ms. Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Martin. 2 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Chhoun) APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer  
for Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent and  
Secretary, Lowell School Committee

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